

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a requesting computer system that is in network communication with a configuration computer system, a method for automatically causing configuration information at the configuration computer system and that is associated with the email services of an email service provider having an identification, the services to be received at one or more consumer modules that will consume the email services, and in a manner that, so as to reduce the amount of configuration information manually entered by a user of the email services, the method comprising the following:

an act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier comprising at least a portion of an email address, and such that the identifier corresponds to representative of email services of an email service provider that the one or more consumer modules will consume, wherein the consumer modules are unaware of the identification of the service provider;

an act of the requesting computer system, automatically, and without user intervention, causing a search for configuration information associated with the email services represented by the identifier and which the consumer modules will consume, wherein the act of causing a the search includes comprising an act of the requesting computer system, automatically, and without user intervention, pushing sending the identifier representative of the services the consumer modules will consume comprising said at least a portion of the email address to a configuration computer system which responsively uses the identifier to identify configuration information that is associated with configuration information at the configuration computer system and that is made available to the requesting computer system;

an act of accessing the configuration information resulting from the search, wherein the configuration information includes the identification of the service provider;
and

an act of providing the accessed configuration information to the one or more consumer modules, and thereby enabling the one or more consumer modules to utilize the email services of the email service provider ~~receiving the accessed configuration information.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier ~~representative of services the consumer modules will consume~~ comprises the following:

an act of the requesting computer system ~~accessing a~~ parsing a complete email to obtain a partial email address as the at least a portion of an electronic mail email address ~~that is representative of services the consumer modules will consume.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein ~~the act of the requesting computer system accessing a portion of an electronic mail address that is representative of services the consumer modules will consume~~ comprises the following:

~~an act of the requesting computer system accessing an electronic mail~~ the partial email address is a domain portion of an electronic mail address.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier ~~representative of services the consumer modules will consume~~ comprises the following:

an act of generating a Uniform Resource Identifier that includes the at least a portion of an electronic mail address, the Uniform Resource Identifier being representative of email services the one or more consumer modules will consume.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the act of generating a Uniform Resource Identifier ~~that includes a portion of an electronic mail address~~ comprises the following:

an act of generating a Uniform Resource Identifier that includes an ~~electronic-mail~~ domain portion of an ~~electronic-mail~~ address.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier ~~representative of services the consumer modules will consume~~ comprises the following:

an act of generating a Uniform Resource Identifier that includes an address, which is representative of a configuration computer system that includes the configuration information associated with the email services the one or more consumer modules will consume.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier ~~representative of services the consumer modules will consume~~ comprises the following:

an act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier that was hard coded into a module included in the requesting computer system.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier ~~representative of services the consumer modules will consume~~ comprises the following:

an act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier ~~representative of electronic mail services the consumer modules will consume~~ that was entered by a user of the one or more consumer modules.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein the act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier representative of services the consumer modules will consume~~ further comprising the following:

an act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier representative of news group services the one or more consumer modules will consume.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein the act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier representative of services the consumer modules will consume~~ further comprising the following:

an act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier representative of Web services the one or more consumer modules will consume.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of the requesting computer system, automatically, and without user intervention, causing a search for configuration information associated with the email services represented by the ~~identifier and which the consumer modules will consume~~ comprises the following:

an act of a first configuration computer system receiving an identifier that was redirected from a second configuration computer system.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of the requesting computer system, automatically, and without user intervention, causing a search for configuration information associated with the email services represented by the identifier and ~~which the consumer modules will consume~~ comprises the following:

an act of causing ~~a~~ the configuration computer system to search for configuration information associated with the email services the one or more consumer modules will consume.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the act of causing ~~at~~ the configuration computer system to search for configuration information associated with the email services the one or more consumer modules will consume comprises the following:

an act of causing ~~at~~ the configuration computer system to search a table of configuration information for information associated with the email services the one or more consumer modules will consume.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the act of causing the configuration computer system to search for configuration information associated with the email services the one or more consumer modules will consume comprises the following:

an act of causing a search for a configuration computer system that contains configuration information associated with the email services the one or more consumer modules will consume.

18. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of accessing the configuration information resulting from the search comprises the following:

an act of accessing configuration information that was coded using XML.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of providing the accessed configuration information to the one or more consumer modules ~~receiving the accessed configuration information~~ comprises the following:

an act of the one or more consumer modules receiving the accessed configuration information from a configuration computer system that has access to the configuration information.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the act of the one or more consumer modules receiving configuration information from a configuration computer system that has access to the configuration information comprises the following:

an act of one or more consumer modules included in a consuming computer system receiving configuration information from a ~~the~~ configuration computer system.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of providing the accessed configuration information to the one or more consumer modules ~~receiving the accessed configuration information~~ comprises the following:

an act of the one or more consumer modules receiving the accessed configuration information from a consuming computer system.

22. (Currently Amended) In a requesting computer system that is in network communication with a configuration computer system, a method for automatically causing configuration information at the configuration computer system and that is associated with the email services of an email service provider ~~having an identification, the services to be received at one or more consumer modules that will consume the email services in a manner that, so as to~~ reduces the amount of configuration information manually entered by a user of the email services, the method comprising the following:

an act of the requesting computer system accessing an identifier comprising at least a portion of an email address, and such that the identifier corresponds to representative of email services of an email service provider that the one or more consumer modules will consume, wherein the one or more consumer modules will consume ~~are unaware of the identification of the service provider;~~

an act of the requesting computer system ~~pushing~~ sending, automatically, and without user intervention, the identifier comprising the at least a portion of the email address to a configuration computer system, which responsively uses the identifier to identify configuration information that is associated with configuration information at the configuration computer system and that is made available to the requesting computer system; and

a step for providing the accessed configuration information associated with services represented by the identifier and which to the one or more consumer modules, and thereby enabling the one or more consuming modules to utilize the will consume, wherein the configuration information includes the identification of the email services of the email service provider.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the step for providing the accessed configuration information comprises the following:

an act of a configuration computer system sending configuration information associated with the email services the one or more consumer modules will consume.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the act of a configuration computer system sending configuration information associated with the email services the one or more consumer modules will consume comprises the following:

an act of ~~a~~the configuration computer system sending configuration information to a consuming computer system.

25. (Currently Amended) In a configuration computer system that is in network communication with a consuming computer system and which provides configuration information for email services, a method for sending configuration information associated with one or more email services of an email service provider ~~having an identification, so as to in a manner that~~ reduces the amount of configuration information manually entered by a user, the method comprising the following:

an act of the configuration computer system receiving an automated request for configuration information associated with one or more email services that will be consumed by one or more consumer modules ~~included in aof the~~ consuming computer system ~~unaware of the identification of the service provider~~, the automated request having been provided without user intervention, the request including an identifier comprising at least a portion of an email address, and such that the identifier corresponds to email services of an email service provider that the one or more consumer modules will consume;

in response to receiving the request, an act of the configuration computer system, automatically, and without user intervention, causing identification of configuration information that is associated with the identifier and with the one or more email services that will be consumed, ~~the configuration information including the identification of the service provider;~~ and

an act of the configuration computer system causing the identified configuration information to be sent to the consuming computer system to enable one or more consumer modules to utilize the email services of the email service provider.

26. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the at least a portion of an email address is a complete electronic mail address~~act of the configuration computer system receiving a request for configuration information comprises the following:~~

~~an act of the configuration computer system receiving an identifier that is representative of one or more services that will be consumed by consumer modules of a consuming computer system.~~

27. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system receiving a request for configuration information comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system receiving an identifier that is sent from the consuming computer system.

28. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system receiving a request for configuration information comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system becoming aware that a requesting computer system has initiated communication with the configuration computer system in accordance with HTTP.

29. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system, automatically, and without user intervention, causing identification of configuration information associated with the one or more email services that will be consumed comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing a search for configuration information associated with one or more email services that will be consumed by using the identifier.

30. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the act of the configuration computer system causing a search for configuration information comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing a search for configuration information for email services provided by the configuration computer system, wherein the configuration computer system is also the service provider.

31. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the act of the configuration computer system causing a search for configuration information comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing the search of a table that includes configuration information for email services provided by one or more service providers that are external to the configuration computer system.

32. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system, automatically, and without user intervention, causing identification of configuration information associated with the one or more email services that will be consumed comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing identification of a remote computer system that contains information associated with one or more email services that will be consumed.

33. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the act of the configuration computer system causing identification of a remote computer system that contains information associated with one or more email services that will be consumed comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing identification of a remote computer system that contains information associated with one or more email services that will be consumed by one or more consumer modules in the consuming computer system.

34. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system, automatically, and without user intervention, causing identification of configuration information associated with the one or more email services that will be consumed comprises the following:

an act of identifying configuration information that was coded using XML.

35. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system causing the identified configuration information to be sent comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing configuration information that is associated with the configuration computer system to be sent.

36. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system causing the identified configuration information to be sent comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system redirecting an identifier to a remote computer system that causes identified configuration information to be sent.

37. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system causing the identified configuration information to be sent comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing identified configuration information that was contained in the configuration computer system to be sent.

38. (Original) The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the act of the configuration computer system causing identified configuration information that was contained in the configuration computer system to be sent comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing identified configuration information, which was contained in a table included in the configuration computer system, to be sent.

39. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system causing the identified configuration information to be sent comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing identified configuration information that was coded in XML to be sent.

40. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system causing the identified configuration information to be sent comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing identified configuration information to be sent over a network.

41. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of the configuration computer system causing the identified configuration information to be sent comprises the following:

an act of the configuration computer system causing identified configuration information to be sent over a system bus.

42. (Cancelled).

43. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing, in a requesting computer system that is in network communication with a configuration computer system, a method for automatically causing configuration information at the configuration computer system and that is associated with the email services of an email service provider ~~having an identification, the services to be received at one or more consumer modules that will~~ consume the email services, and in a manner that ~~, so as to reduce~~ the amount of configuration information manually entered by a user, the computer program product comprising:

one or more physical computer-readable media carrying computer-executable instructions; that when executed at the requesting computer system, cause the requesting computer system to perform the method, including:

accessing an identifier comprising at least a portion of an email address, the identifier corresponding to representative of email services of an email service provider that the one or more consumer modules will consume, wherein the consumer modules are unaware of the identification of the service provider;

causing a search for configuration information associated with the email services represented by the identifier and which the consumer modules will consume, wherein the act comprising an act of includes the requesting computer system, automatically, and without user intervention, pushing sending the identifier comprising at least a portion of the email address to a configuration computing system which responsively uses the identifier to identify configuration information that is associated with configuration information at the configuration computing system and that is made available to the requesting computer to a configuration computer system;

accessing the configuration information resulting from the search, ~~wherein the configuration information includes the identification of the service provider;~~
and

providing the accessed configuration information to the one or more consumer modules, and thereby enabling the one or more consumer modules to utilize the email services of the email service provider that consume the services.

44. (Cancelled).

45. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing, in a configuration computer system that is in network communication with a consuming computer system and which provides configuration information for email services, a method for sending configuration information associated with one or more email services of an email service provider having an identification, so as to in a manner that reduces the amount of configuration information manually entered by a user of the email services, the computer program product comprising:

one or more physical computer-readable media carrying computer-executable instructions; that when executed at the configuration computer system, cause the configuration computer system to perform the method, including:

receiving by the configuration computer system an automated request for configuration information associated with one or more email services that will be consumed by one or more consumer modules included in a consuming computer system~~unaware of the identification of the service provider~~, the automated request having been provided without user intervention, the request including an identifier comprising at least a portion of an email address, and such that the identifier corresponds to email services of an email service provider that the one or more consumer modules will consume;

in response to receiving the request, automatically, and without user intervention, causing identification of configuration information that is associated with the identifier and with the one or more email services that will be consumed~~, the configuration information including the identification of the service provider~~; and

causing the identified configuration information to be sent to the consuming computer system to enable one or more consumer modules to utilize the email services of the email service provider.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of the requesting computer system, automatically, and without user intervention, ~~pushing~~sending the identifier to a configuration computer system comprises the following:

an act of ~~pushing~~sending the identifier to the configuration computer system, the configuration computer system being external to the provider of the email services the one or more consumer modules will consume.

48. (Cancelled).

49. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more consumer modules are within a mobile electronic device.

50. (New) The method as recited in claim 49, wherein the mobile electronic device is a telephone.

51. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the requesting computer system is a distributed system that includes a consuming computer system as part of the distributed system, and wherein the act of accessing the configuration information resulting from the search is performed by the consuming computer system.